of Maruti Government proposes to review the dealership granted by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) No dealerships were awarded by Maruti Udyog Limited during the period of the previous Government.

(b) The policy of awarding dealerships of Maruti vehicles has since been reviewed.

Firearms to people in Punjab for Self-Defence

533. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased "to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government plans to provide firearms to a large number of people in the militant-infested rural areas of the State for self-defence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Punjab administration have requested teh Central Government for the supply of automatic weapons and if so, what is Government reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Under the Scheme for Vigilance Defence, the Government of Punjab have provided arms to number of persons for self-defence. They had also requested for supply of automatic weapons. A number of such weapons have since been issued.

Arrest of Sri Lankan Tamils in Tamil Nadu

534. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Sri Lankan Tamils were arrested in September, 1990 when they were selling AK-47 rifles in a village near Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu;

(b) what are the details of the action taken against them; and

(c) what instructions have been gi ven to the Tamil Nadu Government to prevent arms smuggling by Sri Lankan militants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) According to a report received from the State Government, two Sri Lankan Tamils said to belong to the TELO Caders were arrested in a village near Rameswaram on 2nd September, 1990 while trying to sell one AK-47 rifle with some ammunition.

(b) Both the individuals have been detained under NSA and a case has been registered under the Arms Act.

(c) Instructions have been given to the State Government to tighten up surveillance of Sri Lanka elements and to have better coordination with Coast guard authorities to contain such acti vities.

Death of Sri Lankan Tamils

535. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees died when they were crossing the sea to reach Tamil Nadu and if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that twenty three decomposed bodies of Tamil re fugees were spotted along Thanjavur coast; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to protect the Tamil re fugees who were crossing the sea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Nationalisation of Bengal Potteries Ltd.

536. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleaed to state:

(a) whether Government are consider ing nationalisation of Bengal Potteries Ltd.: and

(b) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The decision to denotify the undertaking was taken only after the Central Government, having considered the report of the Tata Economic Consultancy Services (TECS) and various other options for revival, had come to the conclusion that it was not possible to make it economically viable.

Video Cassettes provoking communal riots

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that uncensored video cassettes which provoke communal riots and hatred are in circulation on a. very large scale; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to seize these video cassettes and to punish the authors and producers of these cassettes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir-.

(b) The State Governments are vested with adequate powers to take appropriate action in this regard. The Central Government has also issued instructions from time to time to them to enforce the concerned legal provisions.

Bank papers of A.E. services handed over to CBI

538. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when the Swiss Federal Court decided in favour of the bank papers of the A.E. Services being handed over to the CBI for further investigations;

(b) whether Government has undertaken follow-up action since then; if so, with what results; and

(c) when Government received the sec ret portions of the Swedish National Audit, Bureau Report and what follow-up action has been taken and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFFNCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): (a) On 13th Nov.. 1990.

(b) According to the CBI, necessary follow-up action is being taken by it. The investigations are in progress.

(c) The secret portion of the Swedish National Audit Bureau Report was received on 24 Dec. 1990 and necessary follow-up action has been taken. The details thereof cannot be disclosed as the matter is still under investigation.

Para-Military forces deployed in Ayodhya

539. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which various para-military forces were deployed in Uttar